

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 IO-12 L-03 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 028876

R 261245 Z MAR 73 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7832
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: ECON, ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: AFRICAN WAGE POLICIES BY FOREIGN FIRMS

REF: PRETORIA 889 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

1. RAND DAILY MAIL (MARCH 26) CARRIED ARTICLE DATELINE BONN REPORTING THAT " STRONG GROUP OF SDP AND FDP DEPUTIES" WILL ASK FRG TO INVESTIAGE WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES OF AFRICANS EMPLOYED BY GERMAN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA. SDP DEPUTY LISELOTTE VON BOTHMER QUOTED AS SAYING REASON FOR INITIATIVE WAS " SUS-PICION THAT THE ABUSES UNCOVERED BY THE GUARDIAN (SEE REFTEL) COULD ALSO APPLY TO GERMAN FIRMS".

2. POLICIES OF UK FIRMS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE WIDE PRESS COVERAGE THOUGH LITTLE NOW OF SUBSTANCE ADDED TO INITIAL REPORTS. HMG REPORTEDLY HAS REJECTED IDEA OF WITHDRAWING UK INVESTMENTS, WHICH POSITION ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WAS SECONDED LOCALLY BY CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI OF KWAZULU
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ON GROUNDS THAT WITHDRAWAL TACTICS WOULD NOT HELP HIS PEOPLE.
SA STUDENT RESEARCH GROUP CONTINUING QUESTIONING OF INDIVIDUAL
FIRMS (COURTLAND' S WATTLE PLANTATION ONE OF LATEST) WHICH MORE
THAN ANYTHING ELSE KEEPING ATTENTION FOCUSED ON SITUATION.

3. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN (NOT
NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE) TEND TO RELATE PROBLEMS OF UK
FIRMS TO GENERAL BLACK LABOR UNREST AND ARE DIVIDED OVER
EFFICACY OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE AT THIS TIME. WHAT UNIVERSALLY
STICKS IN THEIR CRAW, HOWEVER, IS THEME NOW COMING FROM UK
FIRMS AND GOVT. THAT " IF WE WEREN' T THERE, FIRMS WOULD BE RUN
BY SOUTH AFRICANS" WITH IMPLICATIONS OF WORSE TREATMENT FOR
AFRICANS AS A RESULT.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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